

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 8, 11-15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohkanda (H1428).

Regarding claim 1, Ohkanda teaches a hedge cutter comprising:

a main body;

a cutting head including first and second elongate bladed members (16, 17), in which at least one of the bladed members is adapted to be driven to reciprocate longitudinally relative to the other bladed member to effect a cutting action; the cutting head being adapted to be fixable on the main body at at least two alternative spaced positions on the main body (one blade on the left and one blade on the right in Fig. 1);

drive means (18, 19) arranged to reciprocate the driven bladed member or members; and

means (32, 33) for setting a direct or indirect connection between the driven bladed member or members and the drive means when the cutting head is in any one of the at least two alternative spaced positions.

See Figs. 1 and 3.

Regarding claim 2, a drive member 7 of the drive means (18, 19) is seen in Fig. 1.

Regarding claim 3, an elongated extension 4 is best seen in Fig. 3.

Regarding claim 8, a plurality of retractable pin (the bolts) and holes are best seen in Fig. 1.

Regarding claim 11, two driving means (18, 19) for two cutting members are best seen in Fig. 3.

Regarding claims 12 and 13, reciprocating blades are best seen Fig. 3.

Regarding claim 14, a parallel linkage is best seen in Fig. 3.

Regarding claim 15, the drive member (18, 19) being releasably engageable with the cutting blade is best seen in Fig. 3.

Regarding claim 17, two drive members (18, 19) are best seen in Fig. 3.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 4-7, 9, 10 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 4 is allowable for setting forth the hedge cutter having a blade support bar formed into a channel to receive the drive member.

Claim 5 is allowable for setting forth the hedge cutter having an elongated sheath member extending along the length of the drive member.

Claim 16 is allowable for setting forth the hedge cutter having a variable length drive member.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Nagashima, Aiyama et al., Maxon, and Dodegge teach hedge cutters of general interest.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHONG H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-4510. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer Ashley can be reached on 571-272-4502. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or

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CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/P. H. N./

Examiner, Art Unit 3724

October 25, 2008